

REMARKS

Claims 21-39 were pending in this application, with Claims 21 and 31 being independent and standing rejected.

Applicants have cancelled former independent Claims 21 and 31, and have amended Claims 22-25, 27, and 29-30, and 32-38, respectively, to incorporate the recitations thereof. As such, Claims 22-25, 27, 29-30, and 32-38 are now independent.

Claims 21 and 31 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by German Patent No. 41 03 685 (Korff, et al.).

While Applicants continue to traverse the reasoning supporting this rejection, for the sake of advancing prosecution on the merits, Applicants have cancelled Claims 21 and 31, thereby render moot the rejections thereof.

As Claims 22-25, 27, and 29-30 had been indicated as allowable but objected to because they depended from a rejected base claim but are each now in independent form and incorporate the recitations of Claim 21, from which they each depended directly, Applicants submit that these claims should no longer be objected to. In addition, as Claims 32-38 had been indicated as allowable but objected to because they depended from a rejected base claim but are each now in independent form and incorporate the recitations of Claim 31, from which they each

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depended directly, Applicants submit that these claims should no longer be objected to, either.

Accordingly, in view of these amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been addressed, and they should no longer be maintained. Applicants further submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such an indication in the next written communication.

This paper represents an earnest attempt at advancing prosecution on the merits, and thus respectfully submits that entry thereof is proper.

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Respectfully submitted,



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